



Post-Register/Ben J. Plastino

## Recalling the past

RIGBY — EXCHANGING REMINISCENCES at a dinner here Tuesday night honoring Rep. Wayne E. Tibbitts, R-Lorenzo, are, from left, Sen. Vearl Crystal, R-Rigby; Rep.

Ray E. Infanger, R-Salmon; Tibbitts, and John Erickson, Jefferson County Republican chairman.

# Tibbitts honored for services

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RIGBY — Accolades were heaped Tuesday night by 60 well-wishers on the dean of east Idaho legislators, State Rep. Wayne E. Tibbitts, R-Lorenzo, who is stepping down after 20 years in the Idaho Legislature.

Tribute was given to the stocky lawmaker who has established a record in the Idaho Legislature of serving in both the Senate and House, and as Democrat and Republican.

Tibbitts, who turns 79 next month, is the oldest currently serving legislator, and is fifth in length of service.

The banquet attended by his neighbors and friends was sponsored by the Jefferson County Republican Central Committee under the chairmanship of John Erickson, Rigby, who presided. Among those on hand was Ann Rydalch, Idaho Falls, state party vice president.

It was a tearful farewell for Tibbitts who described himself as an independent. His record of serving with both parties, and voting what he believed, attested to that.

His family, a son and two daughters and several grandchildren, were on hand to honor the veteran legislator.

Legislative colleagues Sen. Vearl Crystal, R-Rigby, and Rep. Ray E. Infanger, R-Salmon, attended along with longtime friend, Vernon Ravenscroft, now a Boise consultant, who was a roommate of Tibbitts when they both served in the Legislature.

In addition to several short talks there was a song by Mrs. Joan

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Wood, one of three candidates to replace Tibbitts.

Ravenscroft, Crystal and Infanger lauded Tibbitts for his sincerity, honesty and hard work. They recounted anecdotes from their association with Tibbitts. Colleen Erickson, wife of the county chairman, briefly traced Tibbitts' history, noting he was named Jefferson Man of the Year in 1973 and inducted into the East Idaho Agriculture Hall of Fame in 1979 besides serving as school board trustee, precinct committeeman and other groups.

Tibbitts recalled hard times he and his family faced during the Depression years after starting farming in 1922.

"I appreciate the devotion and backing that has been given to me," he said. "This district (Legislative District 20) may be one of the largest but it is also one of the best and has a lots of diversified action.

"There comes a time to live and a time to die but I believe this is the time for me to step out," he said.